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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7438
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 8050
RUQMBE/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0148
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 6556
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE 3869
RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 4749
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 6320
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
BT
S E C R E T DAMASCUS 05342

EXDIS

E.O. 12065: RDS-1,3 7/28/02 (PAGANELLI, ROBERT P.) OR-M
TAGS: MILI, MOPS, PEPR, IS, SY, LE
SUBJ: REPORT OF SYRIAN SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE
- (SCUD) READINESS

REF: (A) DAMASCUS 5332 (USDAO DAMASCUS)
- (B) TEL AVIV 11401 (USDAO TEL AVIV)
- (C) DAMASCUS 5296

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State Dept. review completed

DIA review completed.

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1. S = ENTIRE TEXT.

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3. ON JULY 26 AMBASSADOR RAISED WITH SYRIAN DEPUTY FONMIN QADDOUR THREATENING STATEMENTS BY SYRIAN MILITARY SPOKESMAN WHICH HAD BEEN INTERPRETED AS INDICATING POSSIBLE SYRIAN USE OF SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILES WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO SCUD (DAMASCUS 5296). AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT SUCH THREATENING STATEMENTS, HOWEVER MISINTERPRETED, WERE HIGHLY INADVISABLE SINCE THEY FUELED TENSION AND CONTRIBUTED TO CEASEFIRE INSTABILITY.

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6. BEIRUT MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. PAGANELLI

END OF MESSAGE

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